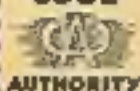


JOURNEY INTO

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



57
MAY

10¢

NEVER HAVE YOU
SEEN A NIGHTMARE
CREATURE AS FANTASTIC AS...

OROGO!

THE THING FROM
BEYOND!"

OROGO!
THE THING FROM
BEYOND!

**ALSO:
WHO? AND WHAT WERE
"THE
EARTH-
CRAWLERS!"**

IT'S
TRUE!!
**OROGO
LIVES!!**
HE'S COME
TO
DESTROY
US!!



OROGO!!

THE NIGHTMARE FROM OUTER SPACE!!

PUNY HUMANS!!
MEET YOUR MASTER!!
I AM
**OROGO,
THE
MIGHTY!!**



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY NO.57

THE DAY THAT IT ALL HAPPENED, AN OLD MAN WAS SITTING IN THE SUN, LISTENING TO THE QUICK, HAPPY SOUNDS OF CHILDREN PLAYING...



AND THE PEOPLE WHO PASSED BY WOULD OCCASIONALLY GLANCE HIS WAY...

LOOK AT THAT OLD MAN! HOW TIRED AND WORN HE SEEMS!

YES...IT'S SAD WHEN ONE GETS THAT OLD AND HAS OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS... WHEN HE CAN NO LONGER SERVE SOCIETY!



MEANWHILE, THREE HUNDRED MILES NORTH OF WHERE THE OLD MAN SAT, AN INCREDIBLE, UNBELIEVABLY GIGANTIC SPACE SHIP WAS NEARING EARTH...!

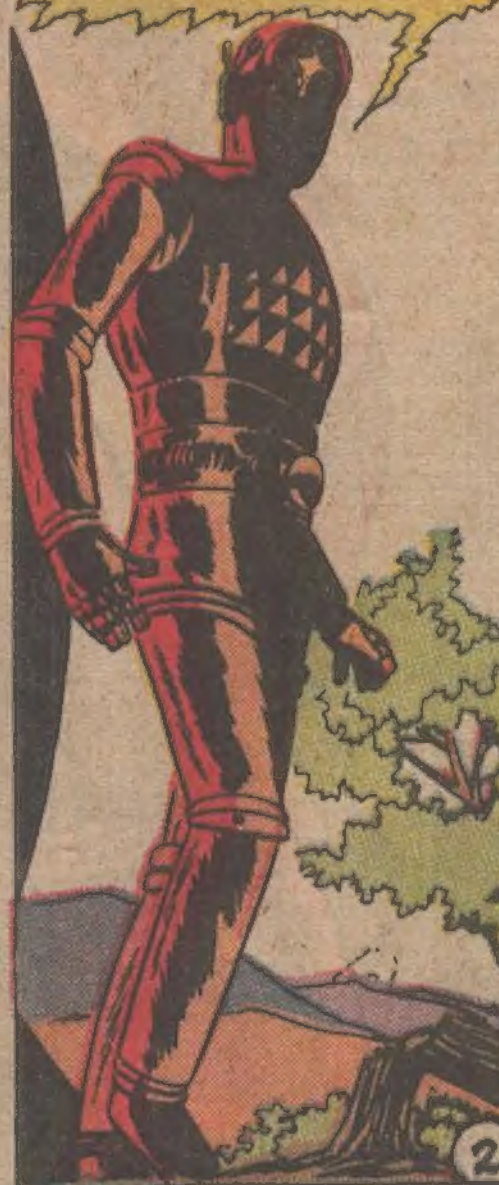
THE NOISE! I CAN'T STAND THE NOISE!

THE SHIP IS SO HUGE, IT'S BLOTTING OUT MOST OF THE SKY!

A BEHEMOTH MUST BE AT THE CONTROLS!



I AM OROGO!



FINALLY LANDING, THE SHIP SPRAWLED OVER THREE FARMS, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY!

WE -- WE GOT OUT OF THE HOUSE JUST IN TIME!

BUT OUR HOME AND OUR FARM-- THEY'VE BEEN DESTROYED!

L-LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!



A FEW MOMENTS PASSED, AND THEN THE DOOR OF THE SHIP SLID BACK-- BACK-- TO REVEAL...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

THE GIGANTIC FIGURE LUMBERED TO THE NEARBY CITY, AND THERE HE ANNOUNCED TO AN AWE-STRIKEN POPULATION...



I AM OROGO! I COME FROM ANOTHER GALAXY TO RECRUIT NEW LABORERS!! YOU EARTHLINGS ARE NO LONGER FREE! FROM NOW ON, OROGO IS YOUR MASTER!

THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF FANTASTIC JOKE!

MISTER, NOBODY THAT SIZE LANDS ON EARTH JUST FOR A LAUGH!

AND THEN, THE FIRST GRIM ORDER THUNDERED AT THE CROWD!



LOOK AT ME, EARTHLINGS—LOOK AT MY EYE! WATCH MY EYE...IT WILL MAKE YOU RELAX...KEEP LOOKING AT MY EYE!

THAT EYE-- IT'S DOING SOMETHING TO ME! AND I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT IT! I'M NOT ABLE TO TURN AWAY FROM IT!

I FEEL STRANGE...LIKE I'M ABOUT TO PASS OUT, OR SOMETHING! I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME!

KEEP WATCHING MY EYE, EARTHLINGS...YOU ARE NOW RELAXED...SO RELAXED THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE YOUR OWN WILL! YOU NO LONGER CAN THINK FOR YOURSELVES...FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU WILL DO WHATEVER I TELL YOU TO DO! YOU WILL OBEY OROGO!



NOW, EARTHLINGS, YOU WILL GO INTO MY ROCKET SHIP! ALL OF YOU-- START WALKING TO MY ROCKET SHIP---THAT IS MY COMMAND!



AND THUS BEGAN THE FIRST OF THE HYPNOTICALLY-CAUSED REMOVALS...



PUNY EARTHLINGS! YOU ARE HELPLESS BEFORE THE HYPNOTIC POWER OF OROGO! IN ALL THE GALAXY, THERE ARE NONE WHO CAN DEFY OROGO!

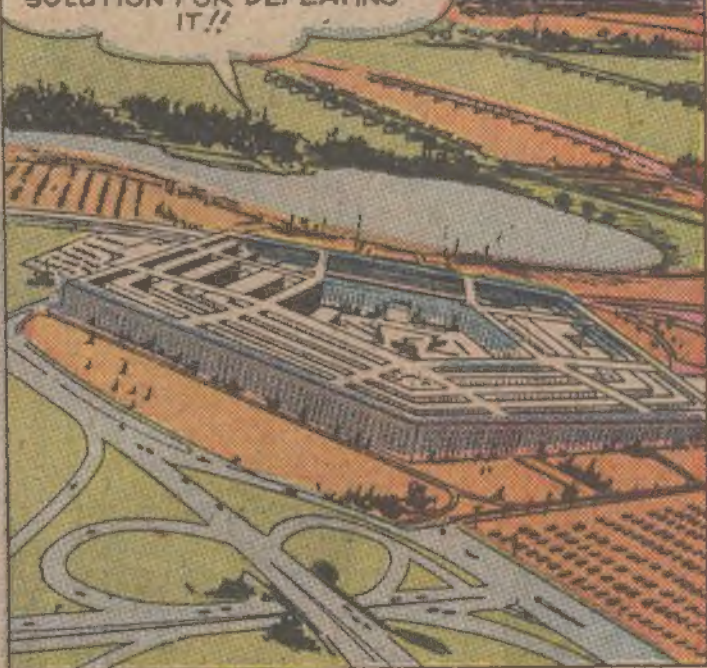
BY THE TIME THE CREATURE HAD MOVED ON TO HIS NEXT CITY FOR CONQUEST, THE HEADS OF OUR MILITARY WERE IN EMERGENCY SESSION...

I'M AFRAID, GENTLEMEN, THAT NOTHING LESS THAN ATOMIC OR HYDROGEN WEAPONS WILL STOP THAT NIGHTMARISH ALIEN!

WE **CAN'T** USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS! THEY WOULDN'T MERELY DESTROY OROGO-- THEY'D ALSO DESTROY THE **CITY ITSELF**, AND THE FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL **HIDING** THERE!



WE'LL HAVE TO FACE THE GRIM FACT THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST A TERRIBLE MENACE--AND WE'VE NO SOLUTION FOR DEFEATING IT!!



AS THE NEWS OF OROGO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE NATION, THE POPULATION WAS OFFERED MAKESHIFT METHODS FOR SAFETY...

BUT IF THE PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT BRICK AND STONE AND WOOD COULD STOP THE METALLIC GOLIATH, THEY WERE MISTAKEN! THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE ON EARTH STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF OROGO!

...AND OUR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT URGES YOU, AT ALL COSTS, TO HIDE FROM THE ROBOT'S SIGHT! FOR ONCE YOU LOOK AT HIS EYE, YOU'LL BE UNABLE TO TURN AWAY, AND HYPNOSIS WILL BE BROUGHT ON WITHIN SECONDS!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE MIGHTY MENACE REACHED THE CITY WHERE THE OLD MAN LIVED... A CITY WHOSE PEOPLE WERE ALL IN HIDING! ALL, THAT IS, EXCEPT THE OLD MAN...!

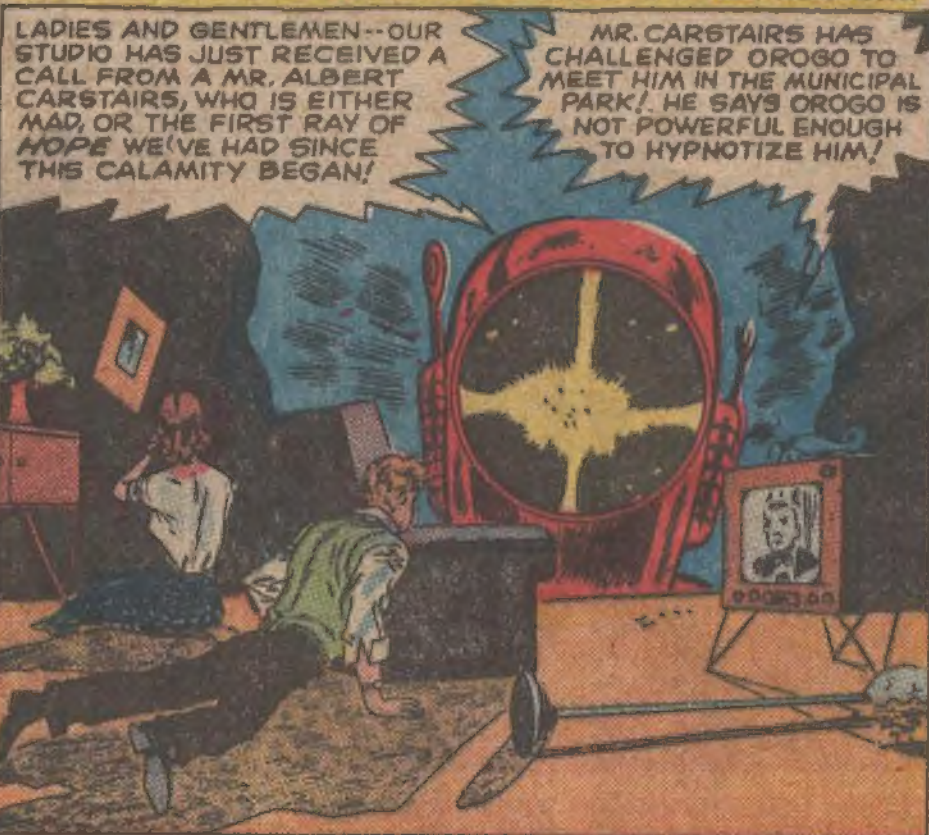


HA/ HA!
LITTLE EARTHLINGS-- YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE ME BY HIDING?? GAZE AT OROGO! SEE ME DESTROY YOUR PUNY BARRIERS--AND NOW BEHOLD THE EYE OF OROGO--OROGO THE MIGHTY!

WHILE OROGO CONTINUED TO LAY BARE THE BUILDINGS OF THE CITY, THE OLD MAN ROSE FROM HIS BENCH AND CALMLY WENT INTO A PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTH...



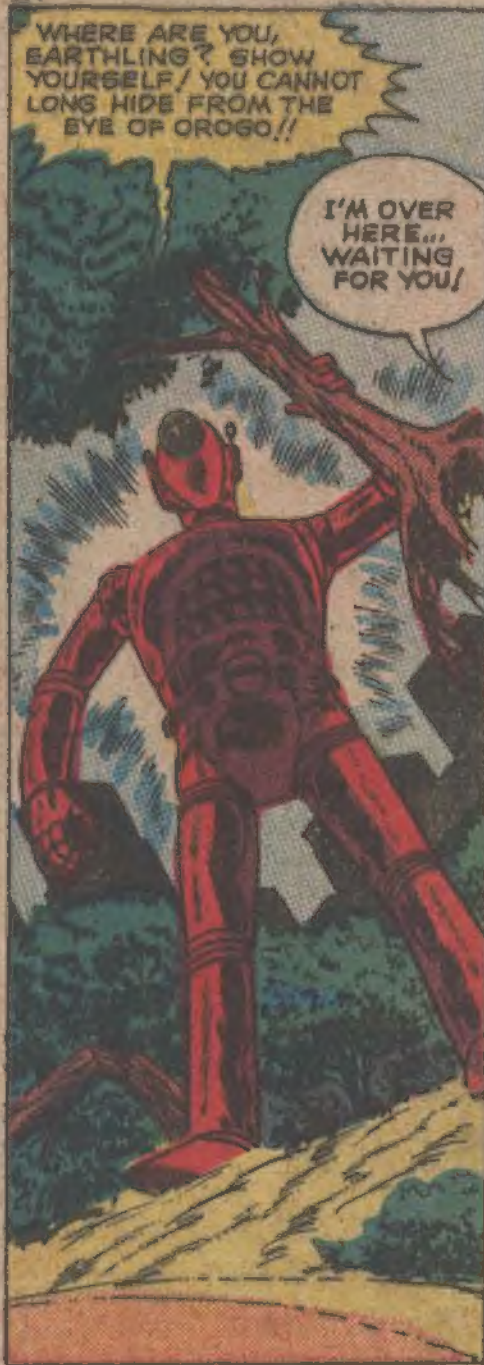
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AN INCREDULOUS NEWSCASTER MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE COMBINED T.V. NETWORKS...



WHAT'S THIS--SOME FOOL EARTHLING THINKS HE CAN RESIST THE HYPNOTIC EYE OF OROGO?!! I'LL SHOW THIS PUNY MORTAL WHAT CHANCE HE HAS OF DEFYING ME!



INCENSED BY THE CHALLENGE, OROGO THUNDERED INTO THE PARK...



AND THEN IT BEGAN...THE FANTASTIC CONTEST BETWEEN ONE WORN, TIRED OLD HUMAN AND A METALLIC COLOSSUS!



LOOK AT MY EYE! KEEP WATCHING MY EYE! IT WILL MAKE YOU RELAX...IT WILL REMOVE ALL WILL FROM YOU... BEHOLD THE EYE OF OROGO!



CRAWL, EARTHLING!! I COMMAND YOU! YOU CANNOT DEFEY ME! -- YOUR ONLY WILL IS THE WILL OF OROGO!

I AM IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY FACULTIES! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED TO HYPNOTIZE ME!



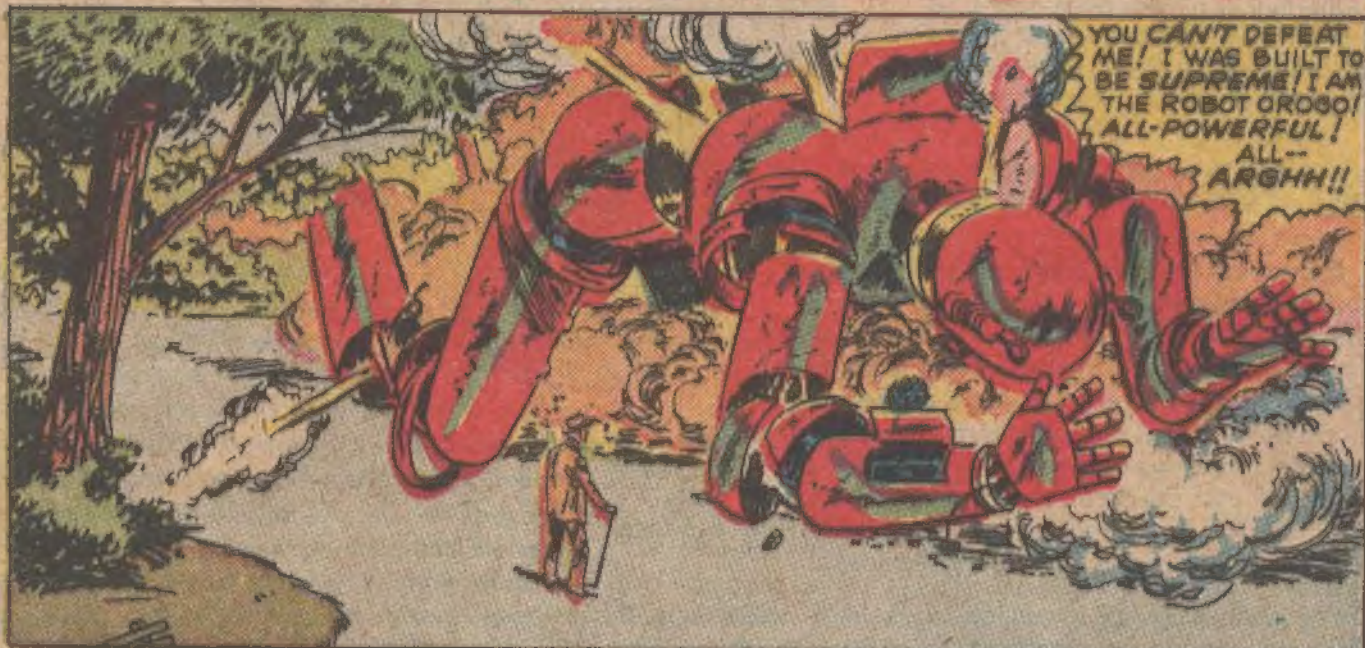
FOOL! FOR THAT YOUR MIND WILL BE SUBJECTED TO A WITHERING BLAST! I WILL INCREASE THE POWER OF MY EYE!!



THERE--I'VE DOUBLED THE HYPNOTIC FORCE! NOW LOOK AT MY EYE, EARTHLING! KEEP WATCHING MY EYE...YOU ARE RELAXING...YOUR WILL IS LEAVING YOU... OROGO IS SUPREME!

SORRY, MISTER! YOU'VE FAILED!

AGAIN THE ENRAGED ALIEN INCREASED THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES, BUT STILL THE OLD MAN WASN'T AFFECTED! IN FRUSTRATION, OROGO CONTINUED TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT UNTIL FINALLY HE WENT BEYOND EVEN HIS CAPABILITIES...AND FINALLY...



YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME! I WAS BUILT TO BE SUPREME! I AM THE ROBOT OROGO! ALL-POWERFUL! ALL-- ARGHH!!

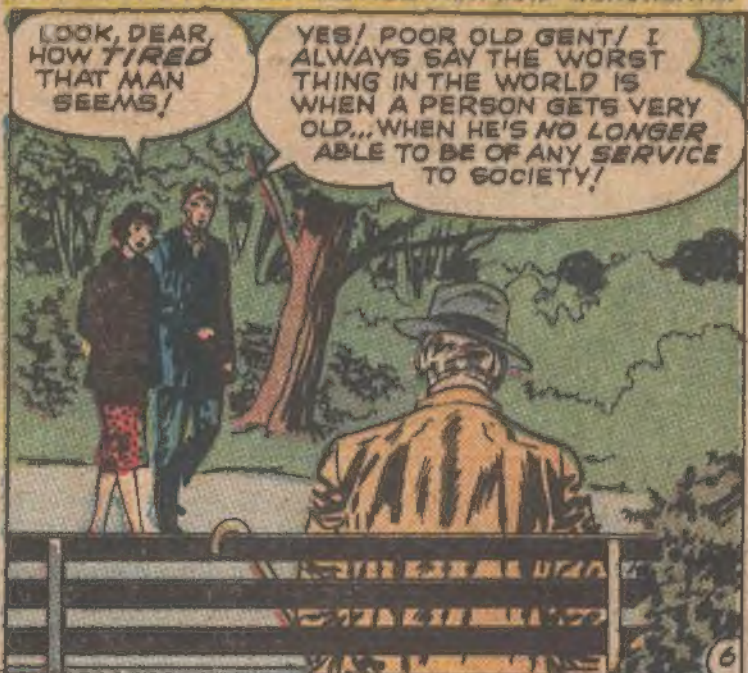
WITH A CRASH THAT MADE THE VERY EARTH TREMBLE, THE ROBOT OROGO FELL! AND OVER THE LAND, HIS HYPNOTIC SPELL WAS SHATTERED! EARTH WAS SAVED!!



BUT HOW, MR. CARSTAIRS-- HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY WITHSTAND THE ROBOT'S TREMENDOUS HYPNOTIC POWER WHEN YOU LOOKED AT HIS EYE??

IT WAS THE ONE THING OROGO HADN'T COUNTED ON! EVEN THOUGH I TURNED TOWARD HIS EYE, I SAW NOTHING! YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, I AM TOTALLY BLIND!

THE NEXT DAY, THE SUN WAS AGAIN SHINING AS THE OLD MAN SAT IN THE PARK LISTENING TO THE HAPPY SOUNDS OF CHILDREN PLAYING...AND OCCASIONALLY A PASSERBY WOULD NOTICE HIM AND COMMENT...



LOOK, DEAR, HOW TIRED THAT MAN SEEMS!

YES! POOR OLD GENT! I ALWAYS SAY THE WORST THING IN THE WORLD IS WHEN A PERSON GETS VERY OLD...WHEN HE'S NO LONGER ABLE TO BE OF ANY SERVICE TO SOCIETY!

THE EARTH-CRAWLERS!



EVERY DAY, FOR OVER A DOZEN YEARS, THE SAME BICKERING HAD GONE ON BETWEEN INVENTOR HENRY SALT AND HIS EVER-NAGGING WIFE!

WHY, HENRY? WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE OTHER INVENTORS AND INVENT SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU RICH?

BUT LOVEY-BUG, THIS RAIN CONTROL DEVICE MIGHT DO THAT!



BAH! THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE IT OVER AND YOU'LL GET PEANUTS! INVENT SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO BUY, WHY DON'TCHA?

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN GADGETS THAT MAKE FORTUNES -- I ONLY INVENT THINGS TO HELP PEOPLE!



WHAT ABOUT HELPING YOUR WIFE? I'D LIKE NEW CLOTHES, A CAR, A MAID...

POOR MARTHA! SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! A MAN MUST DO WHAT HE THINKS IS BEST-- EVEN IF THERE IS NO REWARD!



MEANWHILE, MILES AWAY, IN AFRICA, A DARING ESCAPE IS BEING MADE FROM A MILITARY COMPOUND HOLDING NATIVE TERRORISTS! AN ESCAPE WHICH WILL AFFECT HENRY SALT, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY!

I'M FREE AT LAST!

IT'S THAT FANATICAL WITCH DOCTOR!! STOP HIM!!



BUT THE WITCH DOCTOR MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE, AND A FEW DAYS LATER, IN A JUNGLE CAVE...

THE FOOLS! THEY NEVER DID FIND MY SECRET POTION! NOW I CAN CONTINUE TO WORK ON IT... UNTIL ALL AFRICA IS AT MY FEET!



THERE! IT IS FINISHED!! NOW THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL CRINGE IN FEAR BEFORE THE MIGHTY MAGIC OF TUTAKU, THE WITCH DOCTOR!



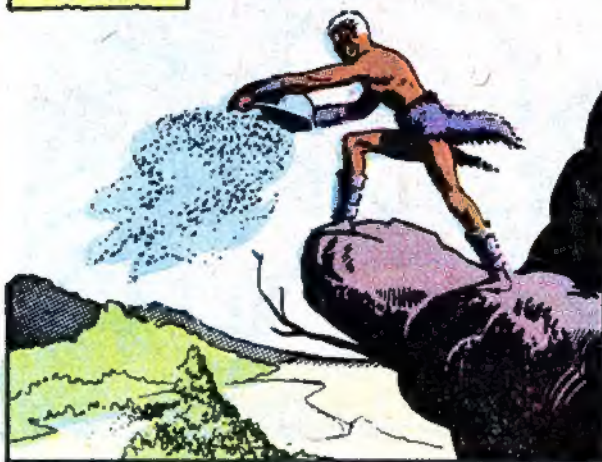
NOW WILL I WIPE OUT THE LAST VESTIGE OF CIVILIZATION FROM THIS LAND!! THE HOUR OF TUTAKU HAS COME!



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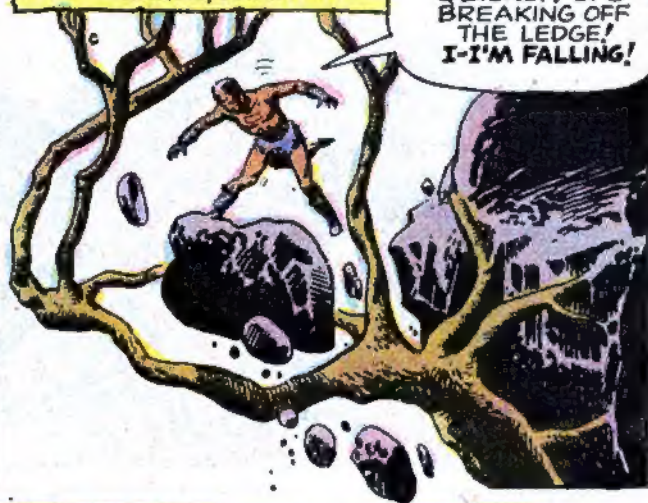
A SHORT TIME LATER... ON A MOUNTAIN LEDGE OVER-LOOKING THE JUNGLE!

THE WIND WILL SCATTER THE POTION THROUGHT THE JUNGLE... AND THEN **NONE** CAN STOP ME!



BUT JUST ONE DROP OF THE STRANGE POTION TRICKLES ONTO A SMALL ROOT ON THE LEDGE UPON WHICH TUTAKU STANDS, AND...

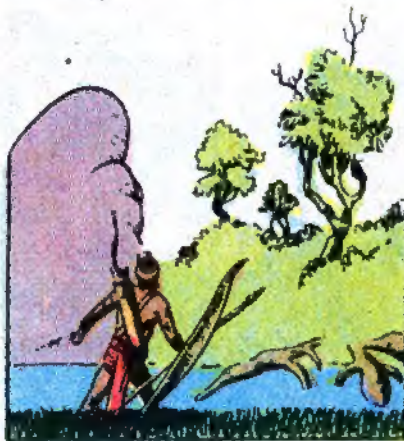
NO!! **NO!** THE ROOT HAS STARTED TO GROW... TOO QUICKLY! IT'S BREAKING OFF THE LEDGE! I-I'M FALLING!



TUTAKU'S FINAL SCREAMS ARE CARRIED AWAY BY THE WIND... THE SAME WIND WHICH SCATTERS HIS FANTASTIC POTION...

IN BRIEF SECONDS, A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE LUSH JUNGLE, AS EVERY ROOT, EVERY TREE BEGINS TO GROW...

AND GROW-- AND GROW!



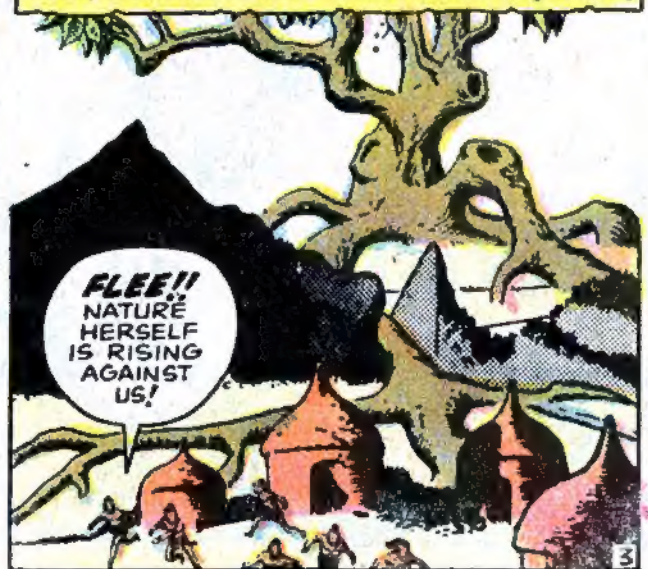
LIKE NIGHTMARE APPARITIONS, THE HUGE ROOTS EXPAND AND SWELL SO RAPIDLY THAT THEIR GROWTH CAN BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE... SO HUGE THAT THEY THREATEN TO DESTROY THE JUNGLE ITSELF!

SEE! THE STREAM GROWS DRY! ALL THE WATER IS BEING ABSORBED BY THESE MONSTER ROOTS!



NOT EVEN THE MOUNTAIN RANGES CAN STOP THE ADVANCING ROOTS! THEY WORM THROUGH SOLID ROCK, SPLITTING IT WITH THEIR FANTASTIC GROWTH!

FLEE!! NATURE HERSELF IS RISING AGAINST US!



TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE PATH OF THE CRAWLING ROOTS ARE SMASHED--ALL EFFORTS TO DESTROY THE CREEPING MENACE ARE FUTILE, AND THE WHOLE AFRICAN CONTINENT TREMBLES IN FEAR!

IT'S USELESS! EVEN BOMBS DON'T STOP THE GROWING ROOTS!

BOOM!

WE'RE DOOMED! THE GIANT ROOTS ARE SPREADING EVERYWHERE! THERE IS NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, A STRANGE DEMONSTRATION IS TAKING PLACE!

IT WORKS!! SEE!! MY MACHINE CAN STOP THE RAIN FROM FALLING IN ANY AREA!! IT IS ABSOLUTELY INFALLIBLE!

INCREDIBLE! IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES...

MOMENTS LATER, A SPECIAL NEWSCASTS INTERRUPTS THE TWO REJOICING SCIENTISTS...

...THE GIANT ROOTS HAVE ALREADY DRAINED MOST OF THE LAKES AND RIVERS DRY! LACK OF WATER HAS MOMENTARILY HALTED THEIR GROWTH, BUT WITH THE HEAVY SEASONAL RAINS ON THE WAY, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THE ENTIRE CONTINENT!

THOSE FANTASTIC ROOTS! THEY WOULD DIE WITHOUT WATER!! PERHAPS MY MACHINE--!!

OPERATOR, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! I WANT WASHINGTON, D.C., THE STATE DEPARTMENT! HURRY!

BEFORE ANOTHER DAY HAD PASSED, HENRY SALT AND HIS AMAZING MACHINE WERE HIGH ABOVE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT...

THE RAINS HAVE BEGUN!! GET THAT DEVICE GOING!!

SINCE WE HAVE TO STAY IN THE AIR AS LONG AS WE'RE NEEDED, WE'LL HAVE TO BE REFUELLED IN FLIGHT!

LOOK! IT'S WORKING! THE MACHINE IS WORKING!

FOR TWO DAYS, THE PLANE FLIES THROUGH THE TOWERING TREES SO HENRY SALT'S WEATHER DEVICE CAN KEEP THE RAIN FROM FALLING!

IT SEEMS HOPELESS, BUT WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE! IF WE FAIL--I SHUDDER TO THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES!

BUT IF THESE NIGHTMARISH TREES GROW ANY HIGHER, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DODGE THEM--WE HAVEN'T MUCH MORE TIME!

THEN ON THE THIRD DAY...

LOOK! THE LEAVES ARE STARTING TO SHRIVEL UP AND DROP OFF!

THIS IS IT!! THE TURNING POINT! THEY COULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT WATER ANY LONGER!!

LOOK! THE LEAVES ARE ALL GONE!

THE BRANCHES ARE BEGINNING TO DRY UP AND CRACK OFF!

WE'VE WON! WE'VE WON!

AND TO THINK MY WIFE CALLED MY INVENTION USELESS! SAID I'D NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING! THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW! THERE GO THE TREES! YOU DID IT, HENRY! YOU SAVED AFRICA... MAYBE EVEN THE WHOLE WORLD, IF THAT HORRIBLE THING HAD SPREAD!

I DON'T IMAGINE WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT... BUT WITH YOUR MACHINE, WE'LL NEVER NEED FEAR THE MONSTROUS ROOTS AGAIN!

THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WERE GENEROUS WITH THEIR REWARDS, BUT HENRY'S LIFE, LIKE THE JUNGLE, IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO NORMAL! NOTHING HAD REALLY CHANGED!

HENRY SALT!! JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE MANAGED TO EARN A LITTLE MONEY--BY SHEER DUMB LUCK--DO YOU EXPECT TO JUST SIT AROUND AND LOAF FROM NOW ON? WHY AREN'T YOU WORKING?

WONDER WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE? IT'S A GREAT IDEA FOR AN INVENTION!

AFTER ALL, NOW THAT WE'RE WEALTHY WE HAVE A POSITION TO UPHOLD! I NEED A BIGGER ALLOWANCE, AND ANOTHER MAID, AND A SECOND CAR...

IF I COULD CONVERT MY WIFE'S VOICE INTO ENERGY, SHE COULD TALK MY INVENTIONS INTO BEING! HMM... AN INTERESTING THOUGHT!

COME HERE, MY LOVE! I WANT TO TEST SOMETHING!!

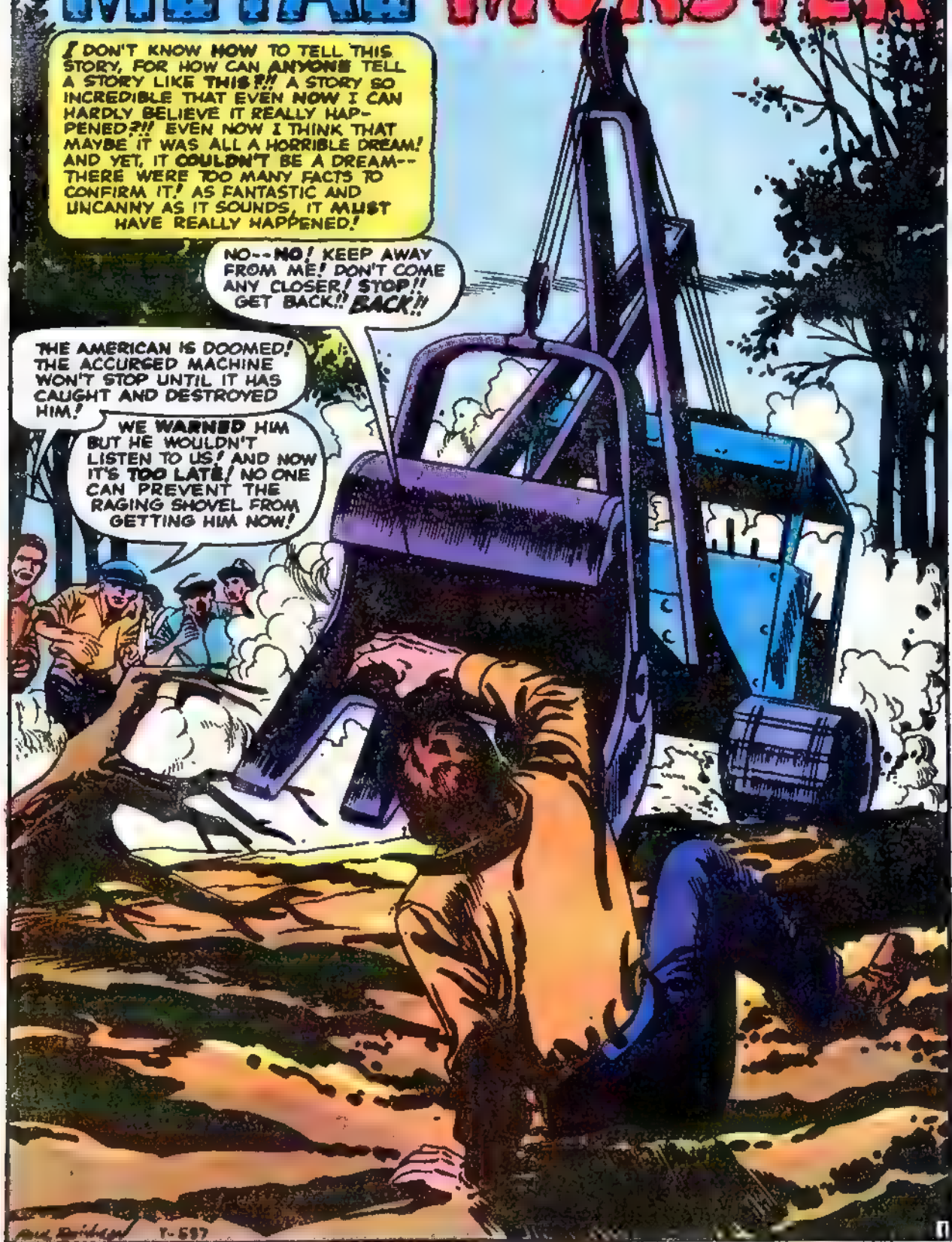
THE METAL MONSTER

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL THIS STORY, FOR HOW CAN ANYONE TELL A STORY LIKE THIS?!! A STORY SO INCREDIBLE THAT EVEN NOW I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT REALLY HAPPENED?!! EVEN NOW I THINK THAT MAYBE IT WAS ALL A HORRIBLE DREAM! AND YET, IT COULDN'T BE A DREAM-- THERE WERE TOO MANY FACTS TO CONFIRM IT! AS FANTASTIC AND UNCANNY AS IT SOUNDS, IT MUST HAVE REALLY HAPPENED!

NO--NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! STOP!! GET BACK!! **BACK!!**

THE AMERICAN IS DOOMED! THE ACCURSED MACHINE WON'T STOP UNTIL IT HAS CAUGHT AND DESTROYED HIM!

WE WARNED HIM BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO US! AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE! NO ONE CAN PREVENT THE RAGING SHOVEL FROM GETTING HIM NOW!



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IT'S IRONIC WHEN I THINK ONE OF THE REASONS I ACCEPTED THAT JOB WAS THAT I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO COMBINE BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE!

WHEN I FINISH THIS JOB, I'LL TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND DO A LITTLE SIGHT-SEEING! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO EUROPE BEFORE, AND IT MUST BE LOADED WITH PLACES I'D ENJOY VISITING!

I REACHED EUROPE ON A CLEAR SUNNY DAY-- A DAY WHICH GAVE NO WARNING OF THE GRIM PERIL WHICH LAY AHEAD!

GO EASY WITH THAT STEAM SHOVEL! IT WAS ESPECIALLY BUILT AND CAN'T BE REPLACED!

7WENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER I WAS AT MY DESTINATION!

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE, MISTER MASON! I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT THE NEW TYPE STEAM SHOVEL!

YES, THIS BABY CAN CHEW UP ANYTHING IN SIGHT!

WE'VE ALREADY RECRUITED THE VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION CREW!

BUT THEN, AS I WENT OVER THE PLANS WITH THE VILLAGE ELDERS...

I SEE THE ROAD WE'RE GOING TO BUILD BETWEEN HERE AND THE NEXT TOWN WILL GO THRU A FOREST!

NO, MISTER MASON... EVEN THOUGH IT WILL TAKE US OUT OF OUR WAY, WE'LL HAVE TO DETOUR THE ROAD AROUND THE FOREST!

THE SZEGED FOREST IS INHABITED BY A BAND OF GYPSIES AND THEY WON'T ALLOW US TO COME THRU THERE!

DO THESE GYPSIES HAVE A LEGAL CLAIM TO THE FOREST?

NO, BUT THEY LIVE THERE AND--

THEN WE'LL BUILD OUR ROAD THRU THE FOREST! I WANT TO FINISH THIS JOB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO I CAN TAKE A COUPLE OF WEEKS VACATION! NO BAND OF GYPSIES IS GONNA SLOW ME UP!

AND SO, WE BEGAN TO CONSTRUCT OUR ROAD! BUT WHEN WE REACHED THE EDGE OF THE SZEGED FOREST...

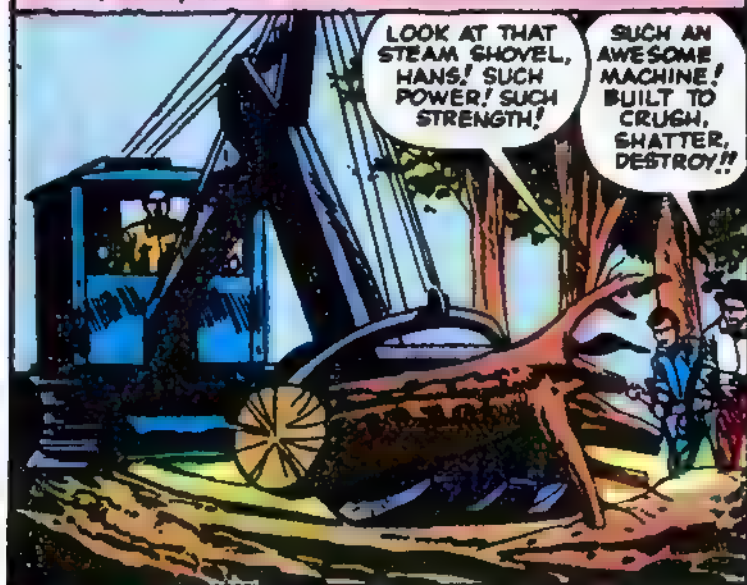
WHY DO YOU GO THRU OUR LAND?

WHY? BECAUSE A STRAIGHT LINE IS THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO PLACES!

THAT IS TRUE! BUT I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THE SHORTEST DISTANCE IS NOT ALWAYS THE QUICKEST OR THE SAFEST DISTANCE!

IF THAT'S SOME KINDA THREAT, MAC-- YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME! I DON'T SCARE EASY! NOW GET OUT OF MY WAY! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

AND SO WE STARTED TO BUILD OUR ROAD THRU THE DARK, LUSH, GYPSY-INHABITED SZEGED FOREST!



LOOK AT THAT STEAM SHOVEL, HANS! SUCH POWER! SUCH STRENGTH!

SUCH AN AWESOME MACHINE! BUILT TO CRUSH, SHATTER, DESTROY!!

THEN, BEFORE WE HAD GONE A QUARTER OF THE WAY THRU THE WOODS...

THE ANSWER IS NO! NOW GO, AND LEAVE US BE!

WE DON'T WANT YOU SNOOPING AROUND HERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE? WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?



I AM GROSKO! MY FATHER IS THE ELDER OF OUR GYPSY BAND!

HE DESIRES TO BECOME ONE OF OUR CREW!

FINE! WE'LL TAKE HIM ON! WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!

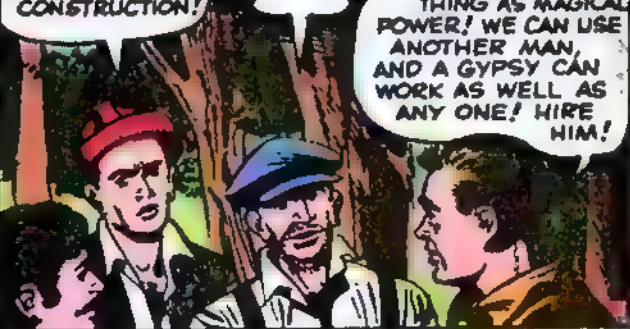
BUT, MISTER MASON, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO HIRE A GYPSY!



THE GYPSIES DON'T WANT US TO BUILD OUR ROAD HERE! IF WE LET ONE THEM STAY AROUND US, HE MIGHT SABOTAGE OUR CONSTRUCTION!

GYPSIES HAVE ALL KINDS OF MAGICAL POWERS! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HARM THIS MAN CAN BRING US!

MUH!! YOU GUYS SOUND LIKE A BUNCH OF SUPERSTITIOUS OLD WOMEN! THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY--AND THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MAGICAL POWER! WE CAN USE ANOTHER MAN, AND A GYPSY CAN WORK AS WELL AS ANY ONE! HIRE HIM!



WE TOOK THE GYPSY ON AND FOR THE REST OF THAT DAY HE WORKED ALRIGHT! BUT DURING THE NIGHT, ONE OF THE MEN AWAKENED, AND THE SIGHT HE SAW SENT CHILLS RACING UP HIS SPINE...

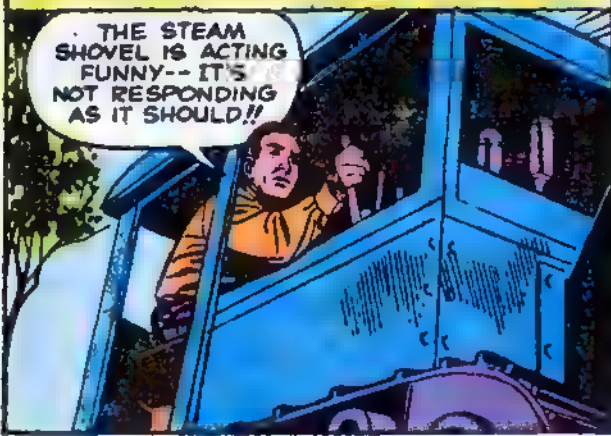
JUST AS I FEARED!! HE--HE'S TRYING TO WEAVER SOME SORT OF MAGIC SPELL!



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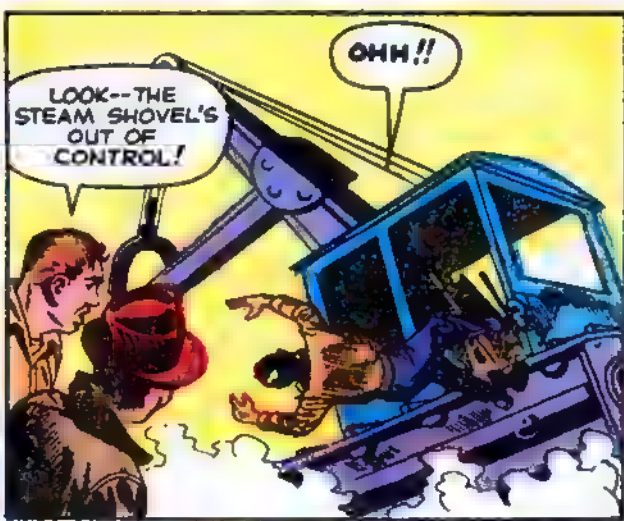
THE MAN WHO AWAKENED IN THE NIGHT WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO REPORT WHAT HE SAW! BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING IT HAPPENED!

THE STEAM SHOVEL IS ACTING FUNNY-- IT'S NOT RESPONDING AS IT SHOULD!!



LOOK--THE STEAM SHOVEL'S OUT OF CONTROL!

OHH!!



THE MACHINE HAS GONE ON THE RAMPAGE!!

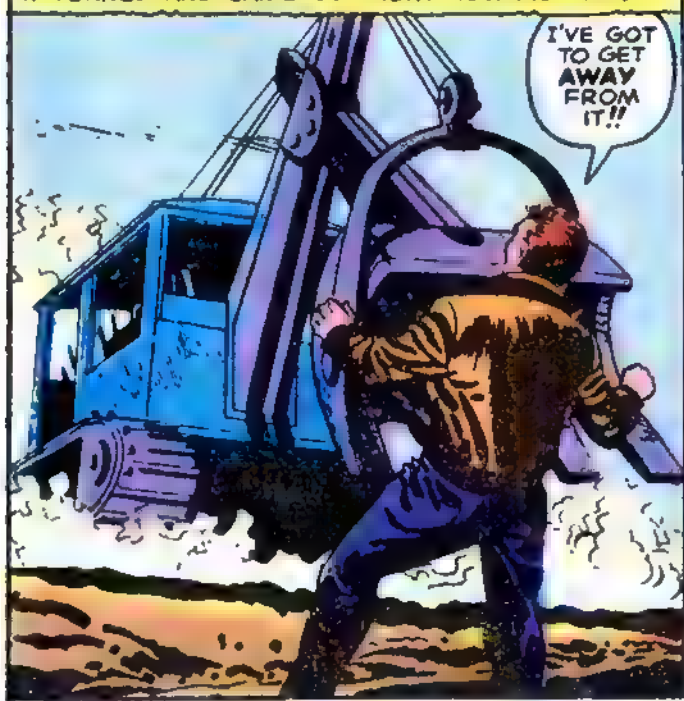
HOLY SMOKE! THING'S RUNNING AMOK!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!! THE MACHINE IS ACCURSED!

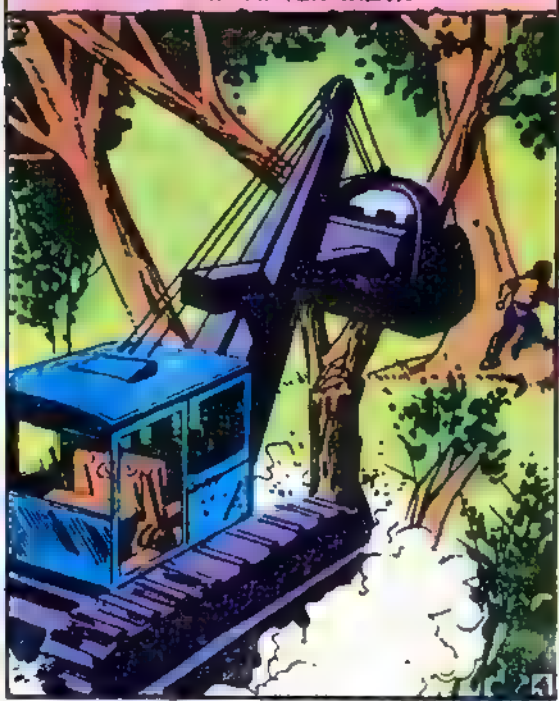


BUT THE IRON MONSTER DIDN'T ATTACK THE MEN! INSTEAD, AS THOUGH IT HAD A MIND OF ITS OWN, IT TURNED AND CAME STRAIGHT TOWARD ME!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM IT!!



I HEADED DEEP INTO THE FOREST WITH THE CHARGING IRON HULK SMASHING ITS WAY AFTER ME...



THERE'S A STREAM!
IF I SWIM TO THE
OTHER SIDE, MAYBE I'LL
BE SAFE! THE SHOVEL
MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
GET ACROSS!



I DOVE INTO THE WATER AND
STARTED TO CROSS THE STREAM...
BUT IT WAS NO USE, NOTHING
COULD STOP THE PURSUING
DREADNAUGHT!

IT'S COMING
AFTER ME!! IT WON'T STOP!
NOTHING CAN STAND IN ITS
WAY!

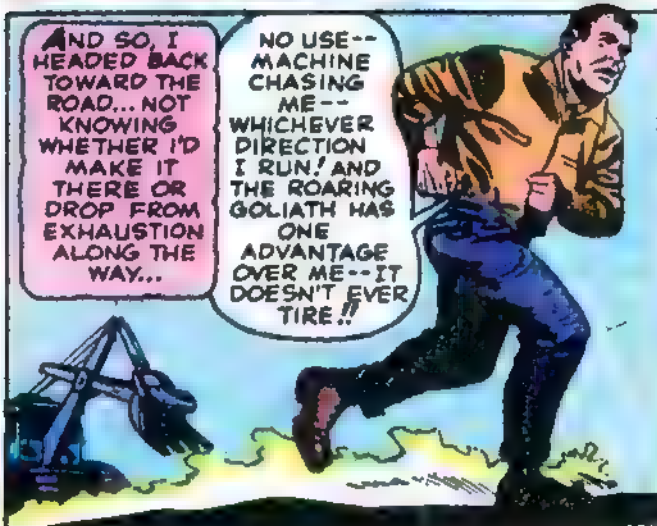


I CAN'T GO ON LIKE
THIS MUCH LONGER! I'M
GONNA DOUBLE BACK TO
THE ROAD! MAYBE WHAT-
EVER NATURAL OR SUPER-
NATURAL FORCE IS
DRIVING THAT MACHINE,
WON'T LET IT CHANGE
COURSE!



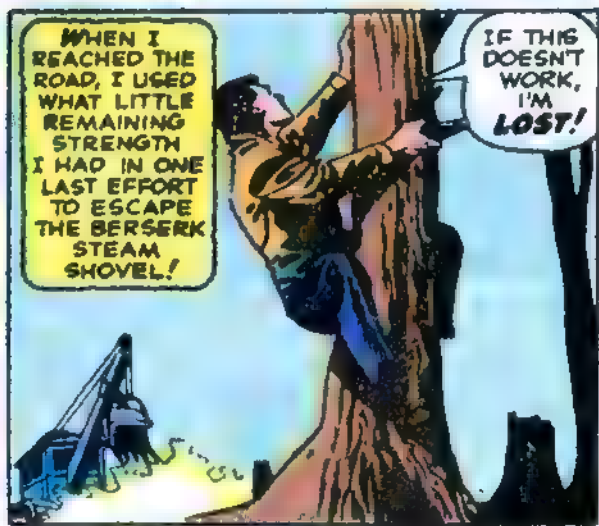
AND SO, I
HEADED BACK
TOWARD THE
ROAD... NOT
KNOWING
WHETHER I'D
MAKE IT
THERE OR
DROP FROM
EXHAUSTION
ALONG THE
WAY...

NO USE--
MACHINE
CHASING
ME--
WHICHEVER
DIRECTION
I RUN, AND
THE ROARING
GOLIATH HAS
ONE
ADVANTAGE
OVER ME--IT
DOESN'T EVER
TIRE!!

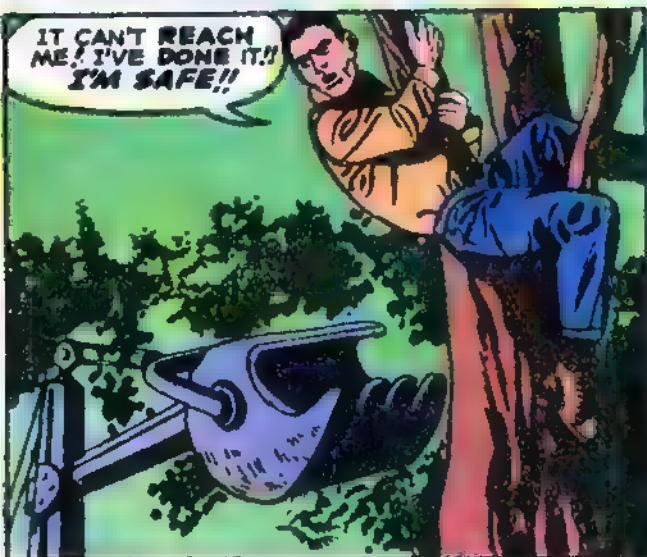


WHEN I
REACHED THE
ROAD, I USED
WHAT LITTLE
REMAINING
STRENGTH
I HAD IN ONE
LAST EFFORT
TO ESCAPE
THE BERSERK
STEAM
SHOVEL!

IF THIS
DOESN'T
WORK,
I'M
LOST!

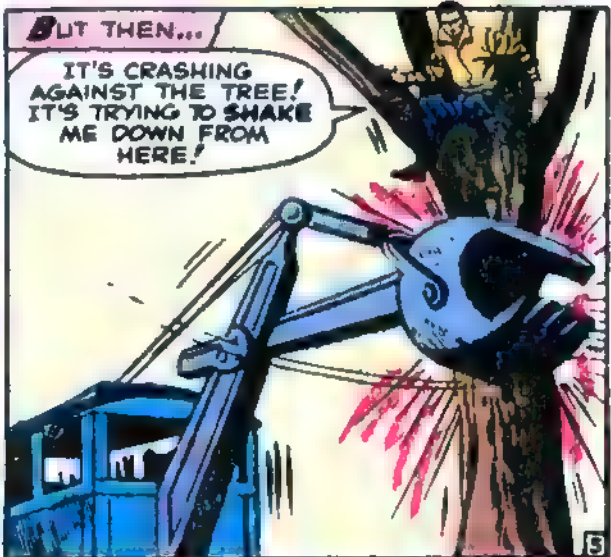


IT CAN'T REACH
ME! I'VE DONE IT!!
I'M SAFE!!



BUT THEN...

IT'S CRASHING
AGAINST THE TREE!
IT'S TRYING TO SHAKE
ME DOWN FROM
HERE!



AGAIN AND AGAIN THE METAL MONSTER CRASHED INTO THE TREE... FINALLY, I STARTED TO PANIC!

YOU WON'T GET ME! I'LL COME DOWN AND FIGHT YOU! YOU'RE ONLY A MACHINE! YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME!! YOU CAN'T!!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MISTER MASON!! I'LL STOP THE MACHINE!

...IF YOU'LL AGREE TO DETOUR YOUR ROAD AROUND OUR FOREST, AS MY FATHER ASKED YOU TO!

WHO CARES ABOUT THE ROAD?? I'LL DO ANYTHING IF THE SHOVEL WILL GET BACK TO NORMAL! BUT YOU CAN'T... IT'LL DESTROY YOU, TOO!

AS EVERYONE HELD THEIR BREATH, THE GYPSEY BEGAN A STRANGE RITUAL...

LET THE METAL LOSE ITS WILL!! LET THE MONSTER NOW BE STILL!

BUT THE WEAKENED TREE COULD STAND NO LONGER, AND...

HELP!!

MY LEG--I'VE SPRAINED IT! I CAN'T MOVE! NO! NO! STAY BACK! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER--STOP!! STAY BACK!

THE AWFUL IRON JAWS WERE ONLY INCHES FROM ME!! AND THEN... THEY HALTED!!

IT'S STOPPED! IT'S REALLY STOPPED! I'M SAVED!!

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS YOUR MAGIC OR JUST SOME KINDA SHORT CIRCUIT THAT MADE THIS CONTRAPTION RUN AMUCK! BUT I PROMISED OUR ROAD WOULD BYPASS THIS FOREST AND I'M GONNA KEEP MY WORD!

YOUR MACHINES WILL GIVE YOU NO FURTHER TROUBLE!! YOU HAVE THE WORD OF GROSKO, SON OF THE GYPSY KING!!

THAT WAS THE END OF IT! THE FANTASTIC INCIDENT WAS OVER! I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT REALLY POSSESSED THE STEAM SHOVEL... BUT I'LL NEVER AGAIN DOUBT THE SUPERNATURAL!

ON THESE FANTASTIC PAGES WHICH FOLLOW YOU'LL GASP AS YOU MEET...



THE MARTIAN WHO STOLE MY BODY!

YOU'VE GOT
TO BELIEVE
ME, I'M NOT
A MARTIAN!
I'M JOHN
WARREN AND
I'VE LIVED
HERE ALL MY
LIFE!! PLEASE
DON'T SOME-
BODY BELIEVE
ME?!!

WHO DOES
THAT GARGOYLE
THINK HE'S
KIDDING! WHAT
DOES HE TAKE
US FOR...
FOOLS??!!

YOU'D BETTER
SURRENDER
PEACEFULLY
MARTIAN! YOU
DON'T HAVE A
CHANCE IN A
MILLION OF
ESCAPING!!

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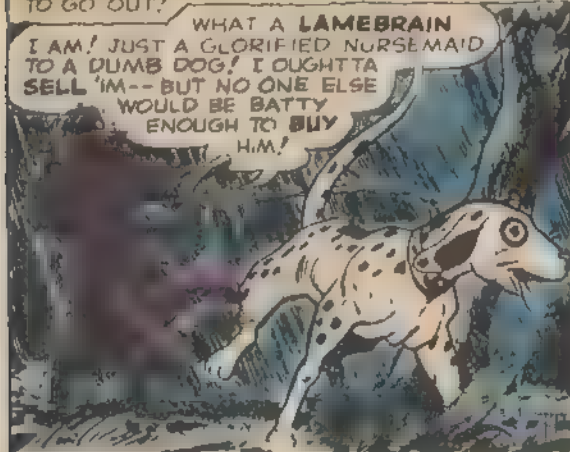
I'D BETTER START THIS STORY BY TELLING YOU ABOUT THAT DOG OF MINE! WHAT A PEST HE WAS! ALWAYS BARKING AT MY NEIGHBOR'S CAT!



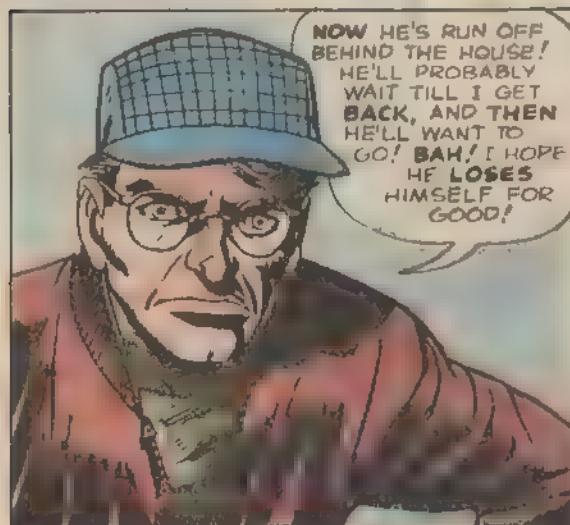
AND ALWAYS Slobbering over me...



AND OF COURSE, THE WORSE THE WEATHER WAS, THE OFTENER MAN'S BEST FRIEND HAD TO GO OUT!



THEN ONE AFTERNOON, AS I PREPARED TO TAKE A WALK IN THE WOODS BEHIND MY HOUSE...



SO I TURNED AND WALKED TOWARD THE WOODS, ALONE, UNAWARE THAT EVEN THEN I WAS BEING WATCHED BY LINEARLY EYES!



I HAD ONLY GONE A LITTLE WAY INTO THE WOODS WHEN I HEARD IT--THE SOUND OF HEAVY FEET COMING TOWARD ME!



SUDDENLY, A COLD FEAR POSSESSED ME! I STARTED TO WALK DEEPER INTO THE WOODS--AWAY FROM THE FOOTSTEPS! BUT THEY CAME AFTER ME! THEN I BEGAN TO RUN...



I RAN AS FAST AS I COULD UNTIL --



SLOWLY, FEARFULLY, I LOOKED UP! LOOKED UP TO SEE--

NO--NO--IT CAN'T BE!!



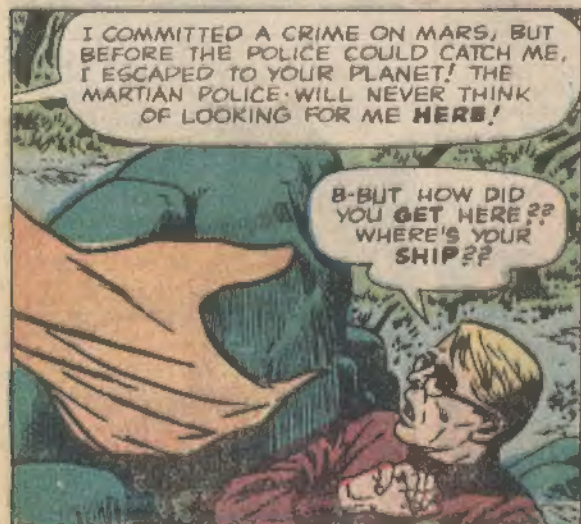
I AM ZETORA! A MARTIAN!

ON YOUR FEET, EARTHLING!



I COMMITTED A CRIME ON MARS, BUT BEFORE THE POLICE COULD CATCH ME, I ESCAPED TO YOUR PLANET! THE MARTIAN POLICE WILL NEVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR ME **HERE!**

B-BUT HOW DID YOU GET HERE?? WHERE'S YOUR SHIP??



I CAME HERE LAST NIGHT IN A COSMIC X-32 SPACESHIP... WHICH I DESTROYED AFTER LANDING!

THE AUTO-DISINTEGRATOR WILL MAKE SURE THAT NO CLUE REMAINS OF MY ARRIVAL!





AND NOW
THERE REMAINS
BUT ONE MORE
THING FOR ME TO DO,
AND MY ESCAPE WILL
BE COMPLETE! I WILL
NOW CHANGE BODIES
WITH YOU!



CH-CHANGE BODIES??!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN??!

LOOK
INTO MY
EYES,
EARTHLING!
LOOK--

THEN, WHILE I STOOD THERE, UNABLE TO
MOVE OR SPEAK, I EXPERIENCED THAT WHICH
NO WORDS COULD EVER DESCRIBE...

MY MIND AND WILL ARE MOVING...
THEY ARE LEAVING MY BODY AND
GOING INTO YOURS... YOUR MIND
AND WILL ARE NOW MELTING INTO
MY BODY... MELTING THRU BONE
AND TISSUE...



ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WAS AGAIN ABLE TO
MOVE! BUT WHEN I DID SO, I REALIZED THAT
THE BODY I WAS CONTROLLING WAS THE MARTIAN'S!



WELL, EARTH-
LING, I LEAVE
YOU NOW! I SHALL
FIND PERMANENT
SAFETY IN YOUR
IDENTITY! AS FOR YOU--
HEH HEH-- I SUGGEST
YOU HIDE
FOREVER!



WAIT-- STOP!!
COME BACK!!
DON'T LEAVE
ME HERE!!



I HAVE TO GET HELP!
I HAVE TO FIND SOME
WAY TO REGAIN MY
OWN FORM-- BEFORE
I GO MAD!



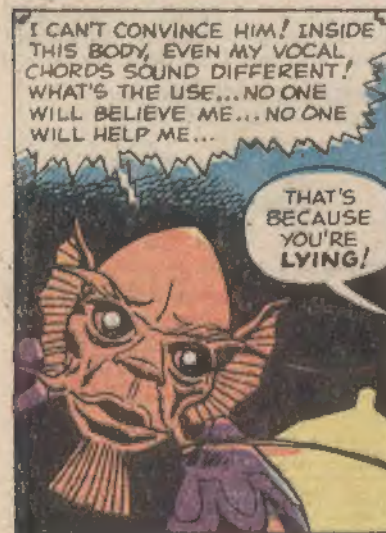
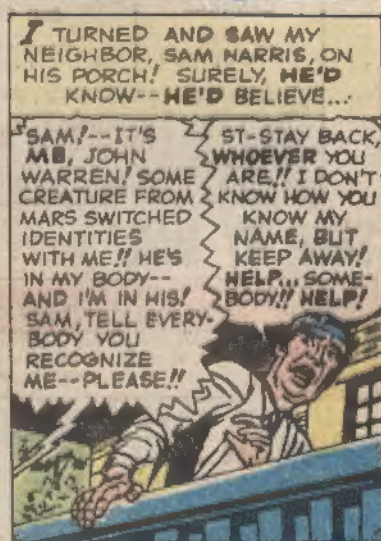
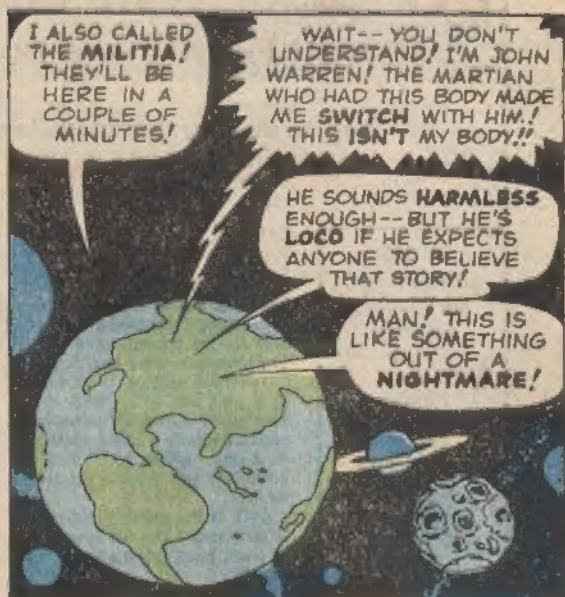
HOLY
SMOKE!
LOOKA
THERE!

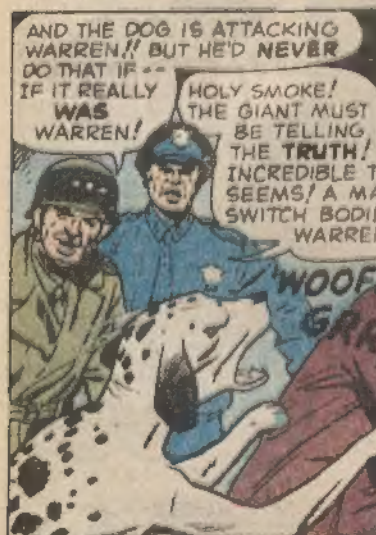
I--IT'S A
GIANT!

HE LOOKS LIKE
SOMETHIN'
OUT OF A
SCIENCE-FICTION
BOOK!

MORE
LIKE A
MONSTER
FROM
ANOTHER
WORLD!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





THE END